

**2009
ANNUAL
REPORT**



JUDGE THOMAS R. LIPPS

JUDGE KARLA J. GRADY



Judge Thomas R. Lipps
Administrative Judge



Judge Karla J. Grady



Court Administrator
Mark H. Reed

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OVERVIEW

Hamilton County Juvenile Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases and issues concerning children in Hamilton County. Additionally, the Juvenile Court administers programs and facilities providing for the custody, care and rehabilitation of youth within its jurisdiction.

The types of cases appearing before the Juvenile Court include:

- Delinquency cases in which a youth is charged with what would be a crime for an adult.
- Dependency cases in which it is alleged that a child has been abused or neglected by a parent or other person.
- Paternity/Child Support cases to determine parentage and collect support.
- Traffic cases in which a juvenile is charged with violating traffic law.
- Custody cases in which the parties disagree concerning with whom the child should live or visit.
- Adult cases in which there is an issue of contribution to a child's delinquency or failure to send a child to school.
- Various other cases which impact the best interests of children.

Two judges direct the work of the Court. In 2009, those judges were Administrative Judge Thomas R. Lipps and Judge Karla J. Grady. The judges, along with the Court Administrator, Mark H. Reed, oversee all Court operations, including:

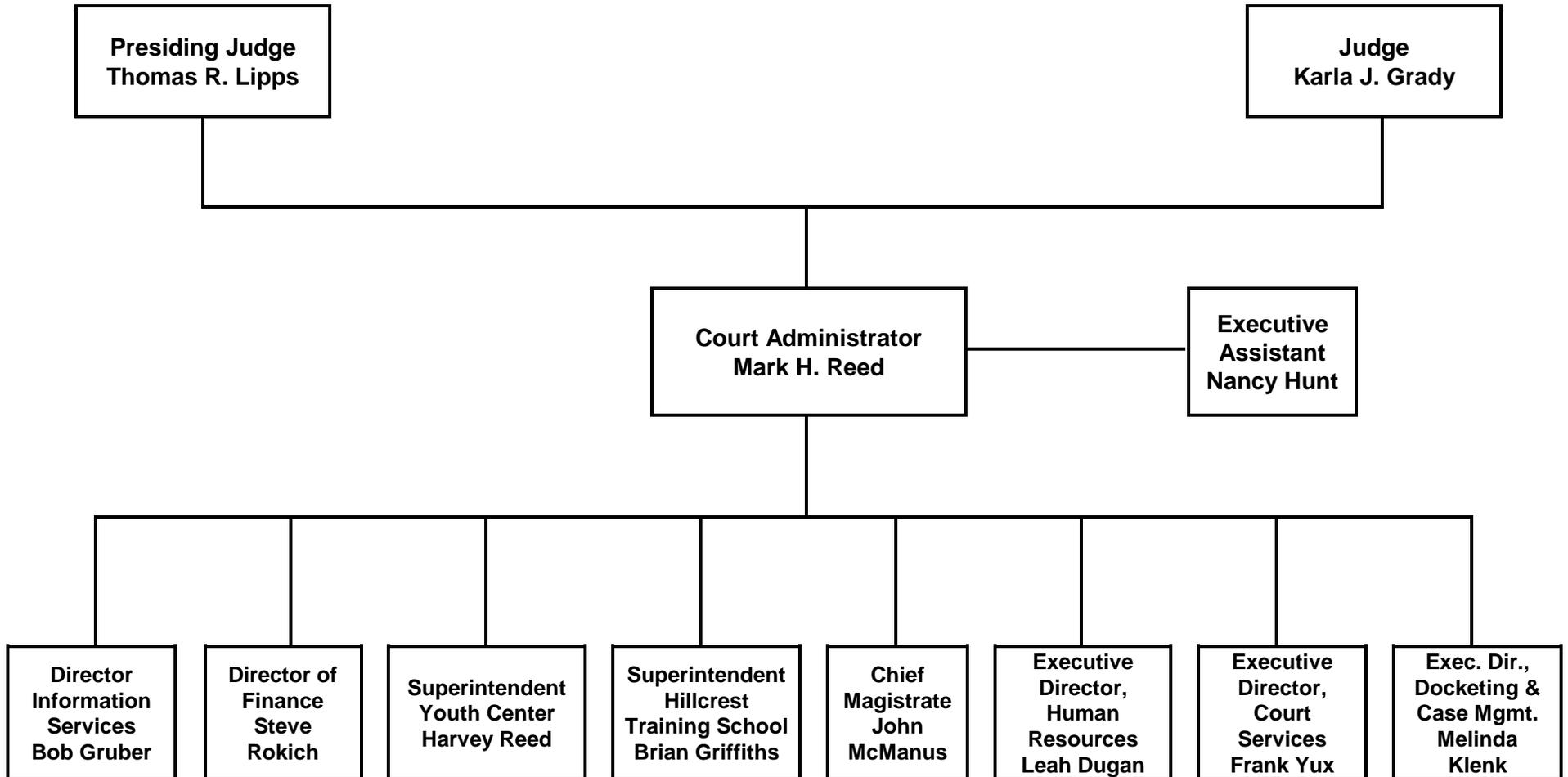
- Department of Docketing and Case Management comprised of the Child Support Department, Clerk's Office, Dependency Department, Docketing Department, Record Room and Security.
- Magistrates Department comprised of 24 magistrates who hear a large volume of cases in various jurisdictional areas.
- Department of Court Services comprised of the Probation Department, Intervention Unit, and Work Detail.
- The Youth Center, a 160-bed secure detention center, housing youth in secure custody pending court hearings.
- Hillcrest Training School, a 142-bed residential treatment center for youth court-ordered into the program for violating the law.
- Various administrative departments encompassing the Office of Court Administrator, Administrative Magistrate, Personnel, Finance, Information Services, Operations and Training.

The Court also contracts with various placement and program services offered by child care agencies, including inpatient secure diagnostic services, shelter care housing children, custodial drug treatment centers, youth counseling programs, etc. Further, the Juvenile Court along with other official entities, have formed the Family and Children First Council to consolidate efforts, increase efficiency and improve service to families and children.

The Juvenile Court is fortunate to enjoy the services of many volunteers who give their time, expertise and money for the enhancement of children. Volunteer programs include over 30 community unofficial hearing officers where members of the legal profession deal with minor infractions, diverting the case from official charges. Volunteer chaplains provide spiritual guidance to youth held in the custody of the Court. An Advisory Council composed of citizens in the community directs services and funds to enhance court programs which cannot be funded by tax revenue to provide needy children with clothes and positive life experiences.

The National Council of Juvenile Court and Family Court Judges designated the Hamilton County Juvenile Court as the nation's first model court. Hamilton County programs are praised by the national judicial and correctional associations and in published reports. Judges and officials from around the nation and across the world have traveled to Cincinnati to observe our Court.

Hamilton County Juvenile Court



COURT ADMINISTRATION

In 2009 the Hamilton County Juvenile Court was again challenged by the specter of significant budget cuts. This reduction in funding forced the Court to continue to reduce or eliminate programming, close twenty additional detention beds and to mothball two more cottages at Hillcrest School. In addition a hiring freeze, implemented in 2007, continued through 2009 reducing court staff by almost a third from staffing levels at the beginning of the decade. However, by aggressively pursuing stimulus dollars and grants, the Court was able to avoid employee layoffs yet again.

Fortunately, case filings of almost every type again declined in 2009. And for the first time in more than a decade, complaints filed for violent offenses fell as well. However, dependency and neglect filings continued their upward trend, perhaps as a result of the continued unstable economic situation in our community.

The coming year promises to be an especially challenging one as the Court deals with the effects of three consecutive years of significant budget cuts with seemingly no end in sight. Nevertheless, the Court is fortunate to retain a dedicated core of employees who, year after year regardless of circumstances, continue to provide quality public service to the children and families of Hamilton County.

CASE MANAGEMENT

DOCKETING/CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Docketing and Case Management Department of the Juvenile Court is responsible for docketing and presenting all complaints filed, maintaining and updating all legal records, and maintaining audio cassettes for Magistrates' hearings. The department consists of 41 employees who handle cases involving Delinquency, Unruly, Custody, Visitation, Traffic, Adult Jurisdiction, Child Support, and Dependency. Jobs currently within the department include Docketing Clerks, Traffic Clerk, Warrant Clerk, Case Managers, Unofficial Hearing Officer, Receptionists, School Case Managers, and File Clerks.

COMPLAINTS AND SOME MOTIONS FILED

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
DELINQUENT & UNRULY	19,894	21,160	18,752	18,449	15,338
TRAFFIC	6,568	6,511	5,664	4,954	4,345
PATERNITY & SUPPORT	1,961	1,095	912	755	662
OBJECTION TO ADMIN. ORDER	275	316	526	467	413
CONTEMPT MOTIONS	4,568	5,785	4,386	3,584	2,249
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	794	738	709	691	754
MOD. OF SUPPORT - CSEA	1,244	937	1,753	1,404	1,769
ADMIN. ORDER of SUPPORT	1,736	2,544	1,016	N/A	N/A
REGISTRATION of ADMIN. ORDER	N/A	N/A	1,718	3,068	2,723
ADMIN. MODIFICATION ORDER	1,239	976	1,784	1,392	1,760
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT	4,222	3,550	3,465	3,315	3,407
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	598	618	593	677	692
CUSTODY, VISITATION & HABEAS CORPUS	1,417	1,334	1,316	1,387	1,371
MOTION CUSTODY / VISITATION	1,164	1,251	1,249	1,259	1,199
MISCELLANEOUS	1	0	0	1	3
ADULT MISDEMEANOR .	1,602	1,329	1,442	1,412	1,375
OBJ TO MAG DEC / SET ASIDE ORDER	614	573	481	437	404
TOTALS	47,897	48,717	45,766	43,252	38,464
HEARINGS CONDUCTED	164,283	163,890	153,339	143,653	128,764
HEARINGS PER CASE	3.43	3.36	3.35	3.32	3.35
HEARINGS PER DAY	657	656	613	575	515
DELINQUENT FILINGS	18,120	19,339	17,101	16,861	14,285
FELONY FILINGS	2,939	3,172	2,766	2,643	2,323
JUVENILES PC TO DYS	159	158	143	132	107
JUVENILES BOGJ	76	73	70	70	70
JUVENILES SYO	1	0	0	2	0

COURTOOLS

In 2008 the Court incorporated the CourTools Performance Measurement methodology within its existing case management system. CourTools was developed by the National Center for State Courts as a way to integrate the NCSC designed Trial Court Performance Standards with relevant concepts from other successful public and private sector performance measurement systems. Combining CourTools with available benchmarking opportunities through the Ohio Supreme Court, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the American Bar Association and other organizations enables the Court to demonstrate the effectiveness in which it has performed the critical task of hearing the cases that come before it in a timely and efficient manner.

One of the most fundamental measures of a Court's efficiency is its ability to keep up with its incoming caseload. If cases are not disposed in a timely manner a backlog of cases will be created. Court's should aspire to clear (i.e. dispose of) at least as many cases as have been filed or reopened in a year by having a clearance rate of 100 percent or higher. The statistics for 2009 are as follows:

New Filings	20,907
Reopened /Reactivated Cases	<u>10,682</u>
Total Incoming Cases	31,589
Total Cases Closed	31,467
Clearance Rate	99.61%

CLERK'S OFFICE

In Hamilton County, Judge Thomas R. Lipps and Judge Karla J. Grady are Ex Officio Clerks of the Juvenile Court. All cases filed are processed through either the Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway, or at the Youth Center Intake Department. The Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway consists of the Chief Deputy Clerk and 13 employees. The Clerk's Office staff screen, process and image new complaints and motions; send service to notify parties of court dates; prepare mandated, and internal statistical reports; establish restitution accounts; and process financial transactions for restitution, fines, court costs, purges, bond, and other ordered fees.

JUVENILE JURISDICTION

DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED

	2008	2009		2008	2009
HOMICIDE			MENACING		
Aggravated Murder	0	2	Aggravated Menacing	153	116
Murder	10	6	Complicity Aggravated Menacing	1	0
Attempt Murder	2	3	Menacing	192	125
Involuntary Manslaughter	0	1	Menacing Child Service / Agency Worker	3	0
Aggravated Vehicular Homicide	1	1	Menacing By Stalking	8	3
Vehicular Homicide	1	2	TOTAL	357	244
Vehicular Manslaughter	2	0			
TOTAL	16	15	KIDNAPPING		
 			Kidnapping	8	7
ASSAULT			Complicity Kidnapping	0	1
Felonious Assault	136	102	Abduction	4	5
Complicity Felonious Assault	3	1	Unlawful Restraint	4	4
Attempt Felonious Assault	1	0	TOTAL	16	13
Aggravated Assault	4	0			
Attempt Aggravated Assault	0	4	EXTORTION		
Aggravated Vehicular Assault	0	1	Extortion	1	0
Vehicular Assault	0	1	TOTAL	1	0
Assault	856	746			
Assault, Teacher, Administrator, Bus Driver	90	52	SEXUAL OFFENSES		
Assault Child Service / Agency Worker	5	0	Rape	46	27
Assault Corrections Officer	12	21	Complicity Rape	0	1
Assault Peace Officer	19	29	Attempt Rape	4	2
Complicity Assault	2	5	Sexual Battery	1	0
Attempt Assault	1	2	Gross Sexual Imposition	32	8
Negligent Assault	4	6	Sexual Imposition	7	7
TOTAL	1,133	970	Importuning	3	0
			Public Indecency	17	10
			TOTAL	110	55

	2008	2009		2008	2009
PROSTITUTION			THEFT (Cont.)		
Soliciting	4	0	Theft of Drugs	7	3
Loiter to Engage in Prostitution	4	0	Complicity Theft	31	25
TOTAL	8	0	Complicity Grand Theft	12	4
OBSCENITY			Attempt Grand Theft	5	5
Disseminate Material Harmful to a Juvenile	1	5	Attempt Theft	24	14
Pandering Sexual Matter Involving a Minor	10	0	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	53	38
TOTAL	11	5	Unauthorized Use Vehicle -Felony	1	1
ARSON			Complicity Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	2	0
Aggravated Arson – Person	16	13	Auto Theft	37	29
Aggravated Arson – Property	12	10	Unauthorized Use of Property	6	2
Arson – Private Property	28	16	Passing Bad Check	0	2
Arson – Public Property	7	1	TOTAL	1,461	1,284
Arson – Land	1	6	MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS		
Complicity Arson	0	1	Misuse of Credit Cards	23	10
TOTAL	64	47	TOTAL	23	10
DISRUPTION, VANDALISM, DAMAGE			FORGERY		
Disrupt Communication Services	2	0	Forgery	13	13
Disrupt Transportation / Utility Services	5	5	Complicity – Forgery	1	0
Disrupt Service – Emergency Personnel	6	0	Criminal Simulation	0	2
Vandalism	60	56	TOTAL	14	15
Vandalism of Burial Structure	6	0	FRAUD		
Criminal Damaging	456	319	Identity Fraud	2	3
Complicity Criminal Damaging	6	3	Taking Identity of Another	4	0
Criminal Mischief	85	73	Tampering With Records	0	1
Complicity Criminal Mischief	5	3	TOTAL	6	4
Vehicular Vandalism	6	10	RECEIVING		
Railroad Vandalism / Trespass	7	0	Receive Stolen Property	232	211
TOTAL	644	474	Receive Stolen Property - Over	57	43
ROBBERY			Attempt Receive Stolen Property	0	1
Aggravated Robbery	237	239	TOTAL	289	255
Complicity Aggravated Robbery	21	10	GAMBLING		
Attempt Aggravated Robbery	4	1	Public Gaming	2	1
Robbery	208	196	Gambling	1	1
Complicity Robbery	5	8	TOTAL	3	2
Attempt Robbery	0	4	OFFENSES AGAINST PEACE		
TOTAL	475	458	Poss. Or Use Hoax Weap. Of Mass Destr.	0	1
BURGLARY			Inciting to Violence	11	3
Aggravated Burglary	28	23	Aggravated Riot	4	5
Complicity Aggravated Burglary	1	0	Riot	16	15
Attempt Aggravated Burglary	1	0	Failure to Disperse	3	0
Burglary	297	292	Telecommunication Harassment	38	32
Complicity Burglary	10	5	Inducing Panic	46	35
Attempt Burglary	13	16	Complicity Inducing Panic	0	1
Break and Enter	219	198	Making False Alarms	40	17
Complicity Break and Enter	6	4	Disorderly Conduct	1,233	932
Attempt Break and Enter	12	10	Disorderly Conduct - Intoxicated	26	26
TOTAL	587	543	Misconduct at Emergency	1	1
TRESPASS			TOTAL	1,418	1,068
Criminal Trespass	452	344	OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY		
Aggravated Trespass	5	8	Endangering Children	10	5
TOTAL	457	352	Interfere With Custody	0	1
SAFECRACKING			Domestic Violence	483	442
Safecracking	0	3	Domestic Violence Felony	74	73
Tamper With Coin Machine	1	1	TOTAL	567	521
TOTAL	1	4	OFFENSE AGAINST JUSTICE		
THEFT			Failure to Disclose Personal Information	3	3
Theft	1,238	1,124	Impersonating an Officer	1	0
Grand Theft	45	39	Bribery	0	1
			Intimidation	9	6
			Intimidating Victim, Witness	5	1

OFFENSES AGAINST JUSTICE (Cont.)	2008	2009	DRUG OFFENSES (Cont.)	2008	2009
Retaliation	1	1	Possession of Hashish	1	1
Falsification	169	151	Permit Drug Abuse	1	0
Tampering with Evidence	13	17	Possess Drug Abuse Instrument	2	3
Compounding a Crime	1	0	Possess Drug Paraphernalia	176	151
Failure to Report a Crime	0	1	Deception to Obtain Dangerous Drug	0	1
Obstructing Official Business	656	564	Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	2	3
Obstructing Justice	2	0	Possess Counterfeit Cont. Substance	31	10
Resisting Arrest	147	149	Traff Counterfeit Controlled Substance	2	1
Flee and Elude Police Officer	12	8	TOTAL	865	705
Fail to Comply with Police	6	6	MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES		
Fail to Comply with Police - Felony	7	6	Desecration	8	0
Escape	14	5	Ethnic Intimidation	3	0
Convey Drug/Weapon into Detention	0	1	Contaminate Substance-Human Use	1	1
Harassment by an Inmate	3	3	Littering	1	5
TOTAL	1,049	923	TOTAL	13	6
ATTEMPT, COMPLICITY, CONSPIRACY			FIREWORKS VIOLATIONS		
Conspiracy	1	3	Possess Fireworks	0	6
Attempt	17	17	Discharge Fireworks	0	1
Complicity	25	15	TOTAL	0	7
TOTAL	43	35	LIQUOR CONTROL		
WEAPONS CONTROL			Consume Possess Liquor in Veh	0	1
Carrying Concealed Weapon	117	97	Purchase/Consume	360	212
Carry Concealed Weapon Felony	14	7	Possession	12	14
Complicity Carry Concealed Weapon	1	1	Misrepresent to Obtain Alcohol	1	3
Have Weapon Under Disability	25	38	Permit Underage Consumption	4	9
Weapon in School Safety Zone	28	19	TOTAL	377	239
Use Weapon While Intoxicated	1	0	DRIVER LICENSE LAW		
Possess Object Indist from Firearm	6	3	Display Improper Driver's License	1	0
Discharge Firearm Habitation/School	7	0	TOTAL	1	0
Discharge Firearm on/near Public Road	0	2	MOTOR VEHICLE CRIMES		
Dangerous Ordnance	10	2	Stop After Accident – Delinquency	0	2
Possess a Defaced Firearm	2	0	TOTAL	0	2
Firearm – Underage Purchase	1	0	PHARMACISTS, DANG. DRUGS		
Improperly Furnish Firearm to Minor	0	5	Unauthorized Practice of Pharmacy	3	2
Firearm Transport Loaded	4	1	Dangerous Drug, Purchase, Poss., Sell	5	2
Firearm Transport Unloaded	1	0	TOTAL	8	4
Improp. Handling Firearm in Motor Veh.	0	3	HABITUAL / CHRONIC TRUANCY		
Possess Criminal Tools	57	61	Chronic Truancy	564	581
TOTAL	274	237	TOTAL	564	581
CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY			VIOLATIONS		
Participation in a Criminal Gang	0	8	Violation of Court Order	29	22
TOTAL	0	8	VCO Incurrigible	508	400
DRUG OFFENSES			VCO Probation	601	616
Corrupt Another with Drugs	1	1	VCO Placement	830	722
Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs	1	3	VCO Runaway	1,041	725
Agg Trafficking in Drugs - School	5	0	VCO Truancy	847	793
Trafficking Drugs	20	23	VCO Tobacco	5	3
Trafficking Drugs Near School	19	6	VCO Work Detail	476	374
Complicity Drug Trafficking	2	3	VCO Stay Center / Release Center	93	81
Drug Trafficking Marijuana	16	21	VCO EMU	264	398
Drug Traff Marijuana Near School	21	20	VCO Curfew Violation	749	591
Drug Trafficking Cocaine	17	22	Parole Violation	195	177
Drug Trafficking Cocaine Near School	33	13	TOTAL	5,638	4,902
Drug Trafficking Heroin	2	7	MISCELLANEOUS/LOCAL CODES		
Drug Trafficking Heroin Near School	4	1	Miscellaneous Codes	369	294
Illegal Cultivation of Marijuana	1	3	TOTAL	369	294
Aggravated Possession of Drug	4	12			
Possession of Drug	76	44			
Possession of Cocaine	92	52			
Possession of Heroin	6	7			
Possession of Marijuana	330	297			

TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS FILED

	2008	2009
Licensing of Motor Vehicle	79	64
Driver License Law	227	173
Financial Responsibility	1	4
Operation of Vehicle	2,584	2,485
Equipment and Loads	392	299
Motor Vehicle Crimes	63	66
Local Ordinances	1,608	1,042
TOTAL	4,954	4,345

UNRULY COMPLAINTS FILED

	2008	2009
Runaway	601	367
Incorrigible	108	76
Incorrigible Out of County	28	32
Unruly	59	29
Curfew Violation	617	424
Habitual Truancy	182	131
TOTAL	1,595	1,059

RESTITUTION

In 2009, the total restitution collected was \$60,818.93

FINES & COSTS COLLECTED

Fines	\$14,437.64
Court Costs	\$104,018.19
RRF & IDF	\$92,546.54
Computer Fees	\$38,187.95
Legal Research	\$11,281.00
Witness Fees	\$5,542.45
Delivery Fees	\$9,465.32
Work Detail Fees	\$809.37
Restitution Process Fee	\$2,236.81

DISMISSALS

In 2009, 6,967 delinquent, unruly, traffic and adult misdemeanor cases were dismissed.

CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED

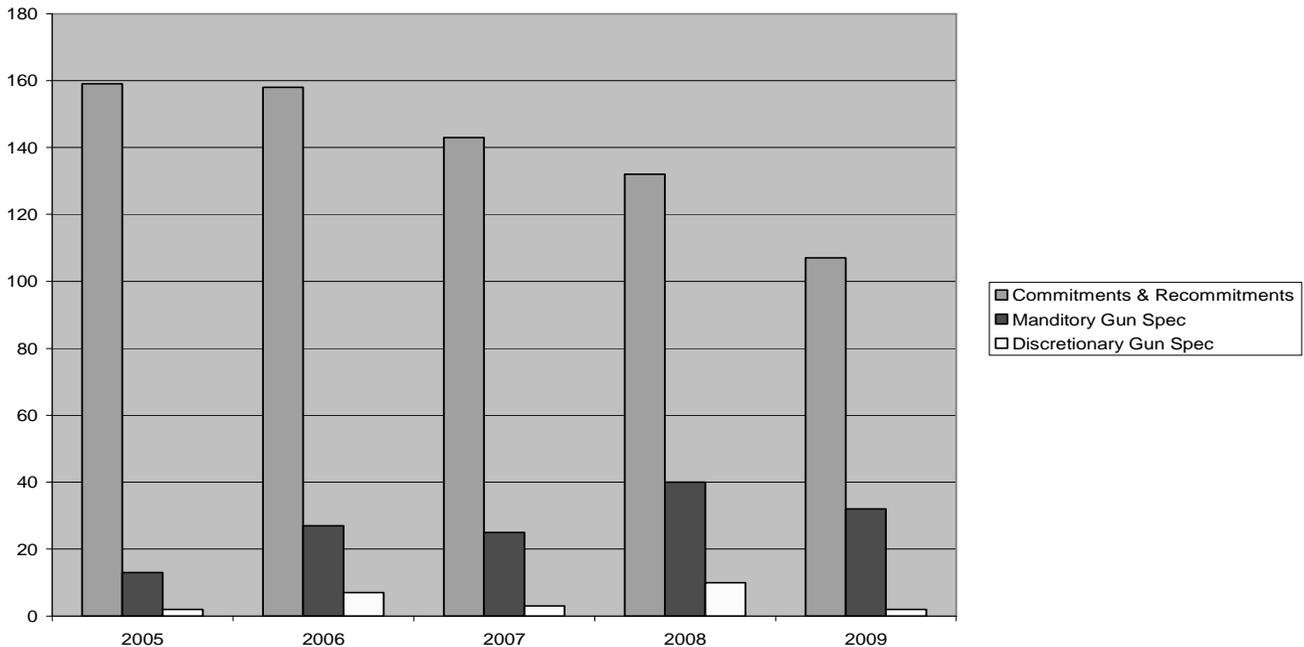
The following report, mandated by section 2151.18 of the Revised Code, reflects the number of complaints filed with the court, that allege that a child is a delinquent child, in relation to which the court determines under division (D) of section 2151.27 of the Revised Code that the victim of the alleged delinquent act was sixty-five years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled at the time of the alleged commission of the act.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	PROPERTY	THEFT	VIOLENT
DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED	5	7	37
ADJUDICATIONS	3	3	16
ADJUDICATION & RESTITUTION	3	1	3
COMMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION	0	0	4
TRANSFERRED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION	0	0	1

COMMITMENTS TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

The Court committed 107 juveniles to the Department of Youth Services and revoked parole for 24 juveniles in 2009. One third of the total committed received a mandatory commitment to the Department as a result of the severity of their offense.

Commitments and Recommitments



Commitments To DYS

	2009		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Committed	82	2	84
Recommitted	22	1	23
Total	104	3	107
Parole Revocations	22	2	24
Grand Total	230	8	131

Commitments/Recommits Characteristics

2009	
Murder (Aggravated)	0
Felony 1	33
Felony 2	25
Felony 3	24
Felony 4	11
Felony 5	14

Four Year Trends for Commitments

	Commitments				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Boys	133	116	107	113	82
Girls	2	3	8	1	2
Total Commitments	135	119	115	114	84

Commitments vs. Recommitments

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Commitments	135	119	115	114	84
Recommitments	24	39	28	18	23
	159	158	143	132	107

Revocations

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Boys	47	28	21	29	22
Girls	0	1	0	2	2
Total Revocations	47	29	21	31	24

Four Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Mandatory

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Commitments	13	25	24	39	30
Recommitments	0	2	1	1	2
	13	27	25	40	32

Four Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Non-Mandatory

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Commitments	2	7	3	10	2
Recommitments	0	0	0	0	0
	2	7	3	10	2

TRANSFERS TO ADULT JURISDICTION

In 2009, 66 youth had their cases transferred to the adult division of the Court of Common Pleas. Of that number, 39 of those youth were required to be transferred for trial as a result of their age and the serious nature of the alleged offense.

	Youth
Filings	168
Mandatory Transfer	39
Discretionary Transfer	<u>27</u>
Total Transfers	66

Bindover Summary for 2009

	Cases	Youths
Carried from 2008	21	17
Carried to 2010	26	10
Filings	407	168
Mandatory	58	39
Discretionary	78	27
Total Bind Overs	152	66

ADULT JURISDICTION

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE

The Dependency Department is responsible for all complaints filed by public and private agencies alleging a child to be dependent, neglected, and/or abused. If a child is placed in the care of an agency, the dependency department must approve and monitor the implementation of the agency's plan for each child. The goals of the statutes that define the operation of the department are to protect children, to respect the rights of parents and to obtain permanent homes for children in a timely fashion.

	2008	2009
NEW FILINGS	518 cases 885 children	528 cases 909 children
FILINGS DISMISSED	89 children	98 children
INITIAL DISPOSITIONS		
Direct Custody to Individual	69 children	78 children
Protective Supervision	174 children	180 children
Temporary Custody	534 children	455 children
Permanent Commitments	34 children	53 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	40 children	37 children

During 2009, in addition to the 53 children placed in permanent custody as an initial disposition, 72 children were modified from a status of temporary custody to permanent custody.

During 2009, in addition to the 37 children placed in planned permanent living arrangements as an initial disposition, 56 children were placed in planned permanent living arrangement as a modification to a prior grant of temporary custody

CHILDREN UNDER AGENCY CUSTODY OR SUPERVISION AT YEAR END

	2008	2009
Pending Complaints	285 children	288 children
Protective Supervision	162 children	186 children
Temporary Commitments	540 children	525 children
Permanent Commitments	238 children	247 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	309 children	279 children
TOTAL	1,534 children	1,525 children

In addition to addressing child abuse, neglect and dependency cases, the Dependency Department hears motions to modify prior dependency orders. New filings of these cases are set forth below:

	2008	2009
New motions to Modify Prior Dependency Dispositions	350 cases 560 children	346 cases 513 children

OTHER COMPLAINTS FILED

	2008	2009
ADULT MISDEMEANORS		
Failure to Send Child to School	1,292	1,230
Endangering Children	12	17
Tend to Cause Delinquency of a Minor	50	59
Contribute to Delinquency	25	14
Adult Probation Violation	15	36
Probation Contempt	1	0
Violation of EMU	17	19
TOTAL	1,412	1,375

	2008	2009
PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP	545	465
SUPPORT	3,277	2,655
CUSTODY	1,240	1,280
VISITATION	177	164
CHILD CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY	159	195
CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT	18	25
HABEAS CORPUS	0	0
PERMISSION TO MARRY	0	1
PARENTAL BYPASS	1	3

SOME MOTIONS FILED	2008	2009
CONTEMPT	3,584	2,249
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	2,095	2,523
ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION ORDER	1,382	1,760
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS	3,315	3,407
OBJECTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	467	413
 HEARINGS CONDUCTED	 2008	 2009
TOTAL HEARINGS CONDUCTED	143,643	128,764
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HEARINGS PER FILING	3.36	3.35

SECURITY DEPARTMENT

The Security Department is comprised of 10 full-time Law Enforcement Officers. These Officers have been certified by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission and have received specific and advanced training. The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Security Department is the first and only juvenile court certified by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

The Security Department operates in compliance with the Supreme Court of Ohio, Court Security Standards. The Security Department is responsible for providing security and prisoner transports within Juvenile Court at 800 Broadway. They further provide security and prisoner transports to the courtrooms at the Youth Center, prisoner transportation to and from other jurisdictions and are responsible for providing security at the Community Services Work Detail Program.

MAGISTRATES

There are twenty-four Magistrates in Juvenile Court. The Magistrates are appointed by the Juvenile Judges to preside over the daily case management in Juvenile Court. The powers of a Magistrate are similar to those of a Judge, however, their decisions and orders are subject to review and approval by the assigned Juvenile Court Judge. In Hamilton County, Magistrates determine delinquency, unruly, dependency, custody, paternity and child support matters in Juvenile Court. One hearing officer is assigned to hear delinquency and unruly cases referred for unofficial hearings.

Nine Magistrates are assigned to preside over cases involving allegations of dependency, neglect and abuse of children. They are responsible for deciding the temporary and permanent placement of children. The primary goal of the dependency process is to protect the best interest of the child.

Fifteen Magistrates preside over delinquency, unruly, traffic, custody, paternity and child support. In delinquency, unruly and traffic matters, Magistrates preside at the plea and trial hearings and sometimes in conjunction with the Probation Department and Court Services Department determine appropriate dispositions.

Juvenile Court has jurisdiction of paternity, custody and child support when a child is born out of wedlock, or when married parents have not filed for divorce. The Magistrates oversee proceedings to establish the proper parent/child relationship. In addition to establishing paternity, the Magistrates also set child support orders. A Magistrate has the authority to hold a parent in contempt of court and place them before the assigned Judge for imposition of a jail term for failure to pay child support. The Magistrates also decide custody and visitation matters in Juvenile Court. Custody and visitation decisions determine who shall be the residential parent or custodian of a child and provides for the visitation schedule of a child.

UNOFFICIAL COURT PROGRAM

In March of 1975 the Court established an Unofficial Court Program to hear unruly and minor misdemeanor offenses. Supervision of the program is handled by the Executive Director of Docketing and Case Management Department, Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

During the year 2009 a total of 1,233 juveniles were referred to the unofficial docket on a total of 1,401 charges. Of the 1,401 charges heard, 258 charges were referred back to the official docket for hearing.

VOLUNTEER REFEREE PROGRAM

Two referee diversion programs exist in Hamilton County in an attempt to divert youth from official delinquent records.

Judge Benjamin S. Schwartz of Hamilton County Juvenile Court initiated the Volunteer Referee Program in 1958. It was the first program of its kind in the country. Attorneys were appointed by the Court as Volunteer Referees to hear unofficial cases of a minor nature within their own community. The program has continued with few modifications over the years, under Judges William J. Morrissey; Olive L. Holmes; David E. Grossmann; John P. O'Connor, Sylvia Sieve Hendon, Thomas R. Lipps, and Karla J. Grady.

Local businesses, schools, police and citizens refer cases. The advantage of the program is that cases are heard within the youth's own community. Generally the cases are heard in the evening, as it is more convenient for all parties to participate. There is high visibility of the child for enforcing house arrest, work details and other measures of discipline.

During the year 2009, there were 691 juveniles served by the volunteer referee program. Of this 92 were referred back to the police department or school for further action. A total of 599 juveniles were served and handled unofficially and diverted from the system.

FAMILY TREATMENT DRUG COURT

MISSION

The Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court is a collaborative effort to ensure timely permanence for children in the custody of the Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services or under agency supervision. The goal is to provide the most efficient substance abuse treatment for parents, as a safe return to a sober parent is the most natural form of permanency the system can provide. This program avoids ineffective treatment, ill-informed court decision-making and repetitive litigation that impeded permanency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a condition for admission to the Family Treatment Drug Court the parent stipulates to the admissibility of all Family Treatment Drug Court findings and treatment records in any dependency proceeding and waives any further cross examination or confrontation of the reporters to the Family Treatment Drug Court. In exchange for this waiver of rights, the parent receives the benefits of close judicial monitoring of treatment, efficient exchange of information among collaborative agencies, and individualized case planning all of which are designed to effect the safe return of the child. Conversely, unsuccessful completion of the program will be documented in the findings of fact and conclusions of law issued by the Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court and will be considered by the Dependency System for all purposes in the future. This voluntary program, at its core, protects the due process rights of the participants yet offers the treatment benefits associated with adult drug courts. As a separate tract to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court's model court, which is already conducting close monitoring of the child's case plan, the Family Treatment Drug Court achieves the goal of timely permanency for children within a context that does not unduly compromise parental rights.

The Family Treatment Drug Court began in September of 2002, and received funding through a grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. The program is comprised of three phases, and the anticipated time for completion of the program is one year. In 2009, 67% of the participants discharged from the program were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

MEDIATION

Mediation offers an effective alternative to the traditional court process by using a non-adversarial conflict resolution process in an environment of collaborative problem solving. Mediation provides a forum to parties that promotes the safe, guided exchange of information following simple rules that are clearly explained from the outset. Parties are permitted to explore any avenue of possible resolution unfettered by external restraints.

CUSTODY AND VISITATION MEDIATION

The Court contracts with attorneys and social workers trained in family mediation and dispute resolution to mediate petitions and motions for custody and visitation. The magistrates referred 133 cases involving custody and visitation petitions to mediation in 2009, following a pretrial hearing.

The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 62% of the cases mediated.

CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

The goal of the Child Protection Mediation Program is to create an atmosphere that values children and families through a reliable process that empowers families and generates reasonable and creative solutions resulting in permanency for children. The types of cases served by the Child Protection Mediation Program included the following: custody or visitation petitions; adjudications of abuse, neglect and/or dependency; dispositional and post-dispositional requests of protective supervision, temporary custody, planned permanent living arrangement and permanent custody; and disputes related to case plan services.

The magistrates referred 56 families to mediation in 2009. The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 70% of the cases mediated.

INDIVIDUALIZED DISPOSITION DOCKET

PROGRAM HISTORY

In 2004, Hamilton County Juvenile Court partnered with the Hamilton County Community Board of Mental Health to implement a juvenile mental health court, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket. This program incorporates the following best practice principles from the *RESOURCE GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases* and the *JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases* published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: one magistrate/one family case assignment model; frontloading of services; family engagement in all stages of the proceedings; frequent substantive review hearings; the use of individualized dispositions that includes graduated sanctions/rewards; and community collaboration. The docket serves youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years who are adjudicated delinquent and diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance. Although these youth are at risk for out of home placement, they have a designated caregiver who will work them in an intensive, home-based intervention.

MISSION

The Individualized Disposition Docket is a community collaborative model of service delivery which utilizes an interdisciplinary and integrated team approach to treatment for youth with serious emotional disorders who are involved in Juvenile Court and require specialized, supported care in order to remain in the community. This model of service focuses on the provision of assertive, comprehensive psychiatric interventions designed to assist and empower the family in achieving individualized goals which are tailored to meet their needs, thus eliminating the risk of out of home placement or other court sanctioned dispositions.

SERVICE MODEL

In 2005, the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board contracted with Lighthouse Youth Services to provide the intensive home-based intervention for the youth and families on this docket. Lighthouse utilizes Functional Family Therapy, an evidenced-based model of treatment. Also included in the program design are components of the Assertive Community Treatment (adult mental health court model). This model also integrates drug and alcohol services as over sixty percent of the youth on this docket presented with a co-occurring disorder. The continuum of services available through Lighthouse includes: comprehensive family assessments; twenty-four hour crisis intervention; mental health case management; psychiatric services; medication management; individual and family therapy ; educational support; behavior management; chemical dependency assessment/education; anger management/conflict resolution; and community support and resource development.

STATISTICS

In 2009, twenty youth with serious emotional disorders entered the Individualized Disposition Docket, and the program served a total of twenty-nine youth and their families. The Individualized Disposition Docket discharged eighteen participants from the program in 2009, and 100% of the youth discharged from the program were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

PRETRIAL DIVERSION DOCKET

PROGRAM HISTORY

In early 2004, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court partnered with the Hamilton County Community Board of Mental Health to implement a juvenile mental health court, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket. In implementing the Individualized Disposition Docket, it became apparent there was a need for early identification of mentally ill adolescents before they became entrenched in the legal system. At the same time, Hamilton County Juvenile Court received a Planning and Implementation Grant through the Department of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance for a juvenile diversion mental health court. In November of 2006, Hamilton County Juvenile Court began a 6 month planning process to divert mentally ill adolescents from traditional court services. In 2009, Hamilton County Juvenile Court received an Expansion Grant through the Department of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance to expand the types of services provided to youth and families on the docket. The Expansion grant will focus on connecting youth and families to non-traditional community supports.

MISSION

This mission of the Pretrial Diversion Docket is to provide early identification and intervention services prior to adjudication in an effort to avoid future contact with the juvenile justice system for youth diagnosed with a serious emotional disorder, who also may have a co-occurring substance use disorder, and have had no contact or minimal delinquency contact with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

SERVICE MODEL

In 2006 the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board contracted with Lighthouse Youth Services to provide the intensive home-based intervention for the youth and families on this docket. Lighthouse utilizes Functional Family Therapy, an evidenced-based model of treatment. Also included in the program design are components of the Assertive Community Treatment (adult mental health court model). This model also integrates drug and alcohol services as over sixty percent of the youth on this docket presented with a co-occurring disorder. The continuum of services available through Lighthouse includes: comprehensive family assessments; twenty-four hour crisis intervention; mental health case management; psychiatric services; medication management; individual and family therapy ; educational support; behavior management; chemical dependency assessment/education; anger management/conflict resolution; and community support and resource development

STATISTICS

In 2009, the Pretrial Diversion Docket admitted nineteen youth with severe emotional disorders to the program and served twenty-six youth and families. The Pretrial Diversion Docket discharged seventeen participants from the program in 2009, and 82% of the youth discharged from the program were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

The Attendance Program involves a partnership between the Court, Westwood Elementary and Talbert House. This collaborative effort is designed to reduce absences within the schools. The Attendance Clerk and Visiting Teacher/Attendance Program Liaison identify students with poor attendance, and the school personnel engage in activities and remedial services intended to improve attendance for this targeted population. If these interventions do not result in improved outcomes, the student and their parents or guardian are cited to court. The court conducts bi-weekly hearings to monitor attendance and a service plan directed to address the underlying causes or contributing factors to the poor attendance record. The goals of the program are to increase attendance, provide support to families and prevent future contacts with the juvenile justice system. The Attendance Program Case Manager works closely with selected families by providing direct services and arranging ancillary services as needed. The Hamilton County Juvenile Court provides a Magistrate and Case Presenter for the hearings. Westwood Elementary has shown improved daily attendance and parent participation in the school setting.

DEPARTMENT OF COURT SERVICES

The Department of Court Services is charged with the implementation of a wide variety of Court orders and services directed at prevention, intervention and rehabilitation. There are four separate departments within Court services: the Intervention Unit, Community Service / Work Detail, Probation and Service Grants and the Youth Center Psychology Clinic. Services and programs in each of these areas work collaboratively and independently to provide services to youth and their families. Court Services uses general funds and specialized grants to fulfill its mission.

INTERVENTION UNIT

The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Intervention Unit, a division of Court Services, serves families as the result of a child's rebellious or incorrigible behavior. Efforts are made to contact families within 24-48 hours of receiving the referral and schedule an appointment within 10 working days. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) are unwilling or unable to attend a session at the Intervention Unit, a family counselor will provide crisis intervention by telephone. It is the Intervention Unit's goal to provide direct treatment services to at least 10% of all families referred. During 2009, 18% of all cases closed had received ongoing treatment services. This was an increase of 2% over the previous year. Cases in which the family made the first appointment, 40% returned for additional treatment sessions. A total of 1,801 appointments were scheduled for families in 2009.

The duration of a single crisis intervention session is typically 2-3 hours. Treatment sessions generally last 1-2 hours. Telephone interventions are provided to clients who do not utilize in-person services due to work schedules, transportation problems, lack of child care, disinterest in counseling, or improvement in the child's behavior. Such cases are monitored for 30 days or longer should problems arise again. Families are encouraged to maintain contact with the assigned counselor during this period; many may call for additional guidance even after the case is closed. There was an average of six contacts per case during 2009.

The First Time Runaway Program provides ongoing case management from the initial filing of the charge through final disposition of the case. Regular phone contact is maintained with the parent(s) or guardian(s). The Intake Coordinator offers guidance and supportive counseling throughout the process, and has the option to refer cases to the Family Counselors for ongoing services. The position was vacated in March 2008 and has not been filled due to the County budget crisis. The Family Counselors have assumed the majority of the Coordinator's duties, with support of the IU Director and Secretary.

893 cases were referred to the Intervention Unit during 2009, which was a decrease of 213 when compared to 2008. The decrease in referrals is directly correlated with the Youth Center's Deputy Clerk's Office reducing the hours during which parent driven complaints can be filed, as well as not processing such complaints on weekends. The hours of operation were changed in October 2008, and the Intervention Unit experienced a 43% drop in referrals when contrasted with 2007. Most effected by the change were unofficial unruly/incorrigible referrals and First Time Runaway Program referrals. At the same time, the number of appointments scheduled has increased 20% since 2007 and there are more families taking advantage of treatment services.

Substance abuse/dependency, physical and sexual abuse, and mental illness remain constant and significant factors affecting family functioning. Trends suggest that increasing numbers of children referred have had prior exposure to mental health services or psychiatric hospitalization. Ages of

youth referred ranged from 7 through 17 years. Minority populations represented 72% of youth referred; 48% of the total referrals were female. This was the first year that females did not constitute the majority of the referrals, which may be the result of parents being unable to file Runaway charges on weekends. 545 (61%) of the 893 referrals received during 2009 were minority youth for whom this was their first contact (unofficial or First Time Runaway) with the Juvenile Justice System. The Unit's mission and services offered to families has had a positive impact upon Disproportionate Minority Confinement and/or Contact initiatives presently proposed by the State of Ohio.

The Unit closed 904 cases during 2009 and provided service to 68% of the families referred. Services included: First Time Runaway case management, single session interventions, ongoing treatment services, and telephone interventions. 21% of cases referred either did not schedule services or the youth's warrant remained active for over 3 months. 9% of families that scheduled a session failed to keep the appointment and did not reschedule. In many of these instances, Counselors scheduled several appointments with clients prior to case closure, encouraging families to utilize services.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Intervention Unit utilizes the services of a contractual psychologist to provide consultation services to ensure fidelity to the model of Brief Strategic Therapy. Bi-weekly live video team supervision sessions occur throughout the year, and all Family Counselors are required to participate. The Intervention Unit's Family Counselors, as well as its Director, are licensed by The State of Ohio Counselor, Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

PROGRAM EVALUATION/RECIDIVISM RATES

The Intervention Unit assesses the effectiveness of services based upon re-involvement with the Court. Recidivism is defined as *any* subsequent official charge, but does not reflect whether there was an adjudication for the case. The results may be negatively skewed as counselors periodically encourage parents to pursue charges as a means of holding children accountable. In addition, minor status offenses and traffic offenses are not differentiated from delinquency charges. To provide a meaningful appraisal of positive outcome, the population was drawn from closures dating from September 2000 through September 2008. A recidivism range within 3 months of case closure was used.

REFERRAL SOURCE	TOTAL CLOSED	NEW FILINGS	RECIDIVISM RATE
Dependency Court Magistrates	4	0	0%
Delinquency Court Magistrates	1,540	538	35%
First Time Runaway Program	4,131	1,294	31%
Clerk's Office Unofficial Referrals	4,642	913	20%
Probation Department	625	235	38%
Township Unofficial Dockets	44	10	23%
Teen Court	24	6	25%
TOTALS	11,010	2,996	27%

TOTAL CASES DIVERTED FROM OFFICIAL JUVENILE COURT DOCKETS 8,014
 PERCENTAGE OF REFERRALS UTILIZING SOME FORM OF IU SERVICE 70%

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Client satisfaction surveys are conducted annually, and request input from both the parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as the youth. Below are the responses of the 48 parents and 38 youth who participated in the 2009 survey.

- 1) Were you happy with the services you received today?

Parent :	Yes	100%	No	0%	
Youth :	Yes	92%	No	8%	
- 2) Do you feel that the Counselor understood your problem?

Parent :	Yes	100%	No	0%	
Youth :	Yes	92%	No	8%	
- 3) Do you feel that you were treated with respect today?

Parent :	Yes	100%	No	0%	
Youth :	Yes	95%	No	5%	
- 4) Was this a helpful service?

Parent :	Yes	100%	No	0%	
Youth :	Yes	90%	No	6%	Unsure 4%
- 5) Rate Your opinion of the Intervention Unit:

Parent:	Waste of time:	0%	Undecided:	4%
	Somewhat Helpful:	0%	Very helpful:	96%
Youth:	Waste of time:	5%	Undecided:	8%
	Somewhat Helpful:	26%	Very helpful:	61%

COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK DETAIL

The Work Detail program is a dispositional option for adjudicated youth in Hamilton County Juvenile Court. The program provides youth with a productive, short-term work experience as a consequence for delinquent behavior. Youth are given an opportunity to learn the principles of accountability and responsibility through various clean up and beautification projects in communities that have been affected by their delinquent behavior.

Work Detail is based on the recognized model of restorative justice. Restorative Justice is victim centered, as repairing harm to the victim caused by the offense and the offender. This is performed by the many community service projects the youth perform throughout their Court ordered Work Details. Community beautification projects are often performed in the same neighborhoods that the youth committed offenses. Restorative Justice requires rethinking the meaning of accountability and the role of punishment in the juvenile justice system. Holding an offender accountable in a restorative justice regimen requires that offenders accept responsibility for their actions and actively participate in the restoration of their victims, both materially and emotionally. The youth from Hamilton County receive an immediate consequence when they are placed on Work Detail. They are also held accountable with additional charges if they fail to comply with the initial Court order.

During 2009, the Work Detail department continued its partnership with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. The department also continued it's partnership with Hamilton County Environmental Services to provide assistance with environmental and educational programs for youth. The department worked

with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the Hamilton County Park district to provide assistance with park clean up. Work Detail youth participated in the annual Great American Clean Up. The department continued to maintain its ten adopt-a-block locations throughout the Cincinnati area. In total, the department served over one hundred community sites throughout Hamilton County. Work Detail received 2,935 referrals during 2009.

Daily Work Details Performed	4,320	Hours of Service:	25,920
Saturday Work Details Performed	4,242	Hours of Service:	12,726
TOTAL:	8,562	TOTAL:	38,646

PROBATION

Probation and the work of the Department are defined under Section 2151 and 2152 of the Ohio Revised Code. It is the duty of all department officers to carry out the orders of the Court and serve to protect the interest of the community. It is the responsibility of Probation Officers to use all suitable methods to aid youth on probation to bring about improvement in their conduct. The Probation Department has been accredited through the American Correctional Association since 1999. The Probation Department utilizes a computerized version of its own risk assessment and case classification model. The department utilizes the "What Works" principles to serve its clientele.

In 2009 the Probation Department received 1,104 cases referred for Investigation, 273 cases referred for Competency and supervised 558 cases under Probation Supervision.

REFERAL STATISTICS

	2008		Total	2009		Total
	F	M		F	M	
Cases Referred to Probation	319	1,063	1,382	270	834	1,104
Competency Referrals						273
Race						
Asian	2	0		2	1	
Bi-Racial	7	14		7	21	
Black-African American	228	747		192	586	
Caucasian	82	293		69	214	
Hispanic	0	5		0	7	
Mexican-American	0	2		0	1	
Other	0	0		0	1	
Unknown	0	1		0	2	
Referring Offense	F	M		F	M	
Felony	61	525	586	55	425	480
Misdemeanor	157	439	596	147	326	473
Violation of Court Order	94	83	177	57	73	130
Unruly	6	11	17	5	3	8
Traffic	1	5	6	6	7	13

Age at Referral	2008	2009
9	1	2
10	8	4
11	23	17
12	40	45
13	76	65
14	154	124
15	270	194
16	306	247
17	333	248
18	158	140
19	4	0
Number of Youth to Terminate at Placement	476	424
Number of Youth to Transfer into Probation	662	502

Referrals to Probation by Offense**	2008	2009
Arson	17	20
Assault	110	189
Attempt, Complicity, Conspiracy	10	13
Burglary	138	135
Cruelty to Animals	1	0
Disruption, Vandalism, Damaging	41	21
Drug Offenses	154	84
Forgery / Fraud	14	3
Habitual / Chronic Truancy	53	7
Homicide	3	0
Kidnapping	1	2
Liquor Control	20	8
Menacing	22	18
Miscellaneous Offenses	5	0
Misuse of Credit Cards	6	0
Obscenity	1	1
Offenses Against Family	92	93
Offenses Against Justice	37	25
Offenses Against Peace	66	60
Receiving	52	47
Robbery	126	100
Safecracking	0	1
Sexual Offenses	32	19
Theft	151	116
Traffic Related Offenses	2	12
Trespass	17	10
Violations of Court Orders	138	124
Weapons Offenses	57	48
** as defined for Annual Report		

PROBATION PROCESS

During the course of a Probation Investigation, the youth is assessed as to their level of risk to re-offend as well as to the type and level of service needs. Dispositional recommendations can vary from releasing the youth back to the full supervision of their parents to enforce sanctions and follow-up with service referrals, to supervision by the Probation Department of varying intensities and to ensure service follow through, to placement in a residential treatment facility designed to address their identified need, to commitment to a state run correctional institution. Along with the risk assessment, offense characteristics, prior Probation adjustment and service history play a large part in the decision making.

During the course of Probation supervision, the youth's level of risk is regularly reassessed. Should a youth be charged with a new offense or fail to abide by the rules of probation, consideration of whether the youth should be referred to placement is reviewed. Re-offending at a felony level while under Probation supervision, in most cases, moves the case in the direction of referral for placement. Consideration for placement is handled through a thorough review of the case with a decision making team consisting of the assigned officer and many levels of management.

SPECIALIZED CASELOADS

SEX OFFENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD

Since 1989 the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Probation Department has been utilizing specialized assessments of adjudicated sexual offenders. This was part of continuum of care treatment approach that followed the youth through legal, treatment and aftercare settings. The objectives for providing such an approach were: 1.) To determine the general dangerousness of the behavior and threat to the community, current victim and potential future victims. 2.) To estimate the risk of the sexually aggressive behavior being repeated. 3.) To evaluate the specific social, family, environmental and behavioral treatment strengths and needs of the adolescent offender. 4.) To determine specific recommendations regarding the ideal course of intervention and treatment along with secondary recommendations should the ideal course not be possible. All youth adjudicated of a sexually oriented crime are assigned to specially trained probation officers.

GENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD

Girls Empowered and Motivated for Success (GEMS) is designed to address the specific needs of adolescent females who are on probation. Five probation officers and a supervisor manage the GEMS caseload. The caseload is set up to decrease the risk for re-offending among females on probation. Girls assigned to this caseload receive traditional supervision along with promising practice gender specific programming.

MENTAL HEALTH CASELOAD

This caseload was established with the Court's creation of an Individualized Disposition Docket to address youth with Mental Health issues that lead to their continued involvement with delinquent behavior. This officer is part of a team of Court and community service providers who develop an individualized plan of care for each youth and family accepted into the program. The goal of this program is to provide a seamless system of care, which will help stabilize the youth's behavior, help improve the family's ability to manage the youth and eliminate delinquent behavior. After a period of intensive services, including Functional Family Therapy, the youth and family are transitioned back to less intensive services within their community.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT (EMU)

The Juvenile Court implemented an EMU Program in 2004. EMU is a community surveillance program managed by the Court's Probation Department to provide increased supervision of high-risk youth involved with the court. The program utilizes an electronic transmitter bracelet that is worn by the juvenile, and a field monitoring device that is connected to the existing power and phone lines in the juvenile's home. Using radio frequency technology, the receiver monitors the presence or absence of the juvenile within a specified range. Should the juvenile leave the specified range area, the curfew violation is reported to the department's monitoring center. During 2009, 615 youth were supervised under Electronic Monitoring, 390 successfully completed the program.

DRUG TESTING

A component of Probation Supervision is drug testing. The department has trained its staff to collect urine on site in a specially designed test cup that will give instant results. During 2009, 1,150 tests were administered. Of those, 340 tests resulted in Positives screens.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Youth who are involved with the Juvenile Court Probation Department often need additional services that require connection to community-based programs. Probation Officers are responsible for coordinating referrals and providing supervision for youth enrolled in these programs.

The following is a brief description of the programs to which youth are referred for outpatient treatment services:

LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY PRESERVATION

Lighthouse Youth Services provides a family outreach component for juveniles on probation that could benefit from a time-limited, structured in-home therapy approach. Workers are on call 24 hours a day during the program and work with the entire family system to help strengthen the family unit and prevent out of home placement from occurring.

CENTERPOINT HEALTH SEX OFFENSE SPECIFIC TREATMENT

Centerpoint contracts with the Court to provide ongoing group, individual and family treatment for youth adjudicated on sexual offenses who are able to be maintained in the community but who need intensive treatment for their behavior. The groups can accommodate approximately 7-8 youth at any given time, due to the lengthy nature of the treatment and the slow turnover that occurs. Additional youth are served individually.

CAMELOT CARE MDFT

The Court contracts with Camelot Care for juveniles on probation in need of intensive in-home drug and alcohol and mental health treatment. This program is a 12 week program utilizing the best practice approach of MDFT (Multidimensional Family Therapy), which targets youth that have co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse.

CHILDREN'S HOME OF CINCINNATI

The Court also contracts with Children's Home for juveniles in need of ongoing mental health services in community settings. Youth can receive services in a variety of settings and from therapists who have developed an expertise in working with delinquent youth.

HAMILTON CHOICES

This managed care concept wrap around program has been in existence within Hamilton County since 1995 under several different vendors over the years. The overall mission and purpose, as well as service operations, are as follows: to purchase, evaluate, and monitor a wide variety of services directed to the County's most difficult to serve multi-system children and their families. Youth receive a wide array of services ranging from community-based to residential, and remain in the program approximately 12-18 months based on their issues and needs. In 2009, 29 Juvenile Court youth were served in this project through direct referral by the Court. Of the total youth in the project from all systems (327), approximately 53% had involvement in the Juvenile Court at some level, which is a fairly significant number.

TEAM CHILD PROJECT

Team Child, a project of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, provides interventions and advocacy so that children involved in the delinquency system can return to and remain in school and improve their educational success. Research shows that being out of school is a predictor of juvenile crime. Improving academic performance and strengthening bonds to school lessen the risk of delinquency. In 2009, 72 youth were referred to the program.

COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS

The Juvenile Court utilizes various residential placements to address the multiple needs of some of its client population and community safety risk. Usually these placements include an average length of stay of approximately six months, and satisfy a need that outpatient services cannot. Placements such as group homes and residential facilities in and outside the state have been utilized over this past year, including:

- Abraxas Youth and Family Services
- Correctional Management Companies
- Talbert House Alternatives
- Talbert House Passages
- Glen Mills School
- The Village Network
- Tri-State Youth Academy
- Lighthouse Paint Creek
- Starr Commonwealth
- Bunker Hill Haven
- Foundations for Living
- Buckeye Ranch
- Children's Center of Ohio

In 2009, there were a total of 91 Juvenile Court youth served in the above 13 facilities.

PLACEMENT AND ENHANCED REINTEGRATION TEAM (PERT)

In 2009 the Probation Department was awarded an Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant. The overall goal of the grant proposal was to improve the criminal justice system by providing enhanced, comprehensive reentry services to youth returning from placement and reducing further risk of offending. The evidence-based treatment models of Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and Integrative Families and Systems Treatment (I-FAST) will be incorporated in the specialized services for identified youth. Anticipated outcomes are a reduction in recidivism and reduced admissions to state correctional facilities. The grant allowed the department to add a Placement Probation Officer, which resulted in smaller caseloads. Each youth and family will receive more intensive community-based supervision and services to build a strong network of traditional and non-traditional supports for successful reintegration back from placement with their family, school, peers and community life.

YOUTH INC.

Youth, Inc. is a local shelter care facility. Youth are referred there from the Youth Center (Detention) when it is appropriate to use a less restrictive environment that can provide short-term shelter care pending a longer-term placement or a return home. During 2009 the court reduced the number of contracted beds from 18 to 10. During that period the program served 413 males.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MAP)

The Multidimensional Assessment Program, located on the grounds of Hillcrest Training School, is a program operated by the Court to assist in the disposition process. Youth are referred to this unit by the Court to assist in need identification and treatment planning.

The Multidimensional Assessment Program is a fourteen day assessment program for court involved youth designed to provide a comprehensive assessment including a substance abuse screening, educational testing and complete psychological evaluation. During the youth's stay staff seeks to understand individual and family issues and concerns, and help find appropriate solutions to these problems. At the end of the youth's stay the findings' specific recommendations will be presented to the Court. In 2009, 192 youth were served in this program.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The purpose of the psychology clinic is to provide mental-health evaluations for the Juvenile Court system at the request of judges, magistrates, probation officers and both prosecuting and defense attorneys. The evaluations are to determine whether juvenile offenders are competent to stand trial, appropriate for waiver, and to assist in dispositional planning. Occasionally, referrals from the dependency docket request clinic staff to assist in custody matters. Each member of the Psychology Clinic rotates weekly 24 hour a day on-call responsibility. The court requested services in 2009 were:

CLINIC SERVICES	TOTAL
Psychological Evaluations	182
Mental Health Court Assessments	7
Psychiatric Evaluations	2
Evaluations for Bind Over	75
Competency to Stand Trial	130
Job Applicants	8
Emergency Referrals	1,622
Detention High Risk Assessments	1,055

HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT YOUTH CENTER



YOUTH CENTER

During 2009, the Youth Center has experienced several major changes to the facility's programs and personnel, while still providing short term secure placement for youth awaiting trial or placement. The Youth Center has continued its accreditation with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care Services, American Association of Suicidology, while meeting the standards of the Department of Youth Services.

In 2009, The Youth Center had 7,216 intakes (youth who are under arrest). There were 3,326 youth (46% of intakes) who were admitted to detention, this represents a 21% decrease from 2008. The average daily population is 91 youth in detention, with an average length of stay of ten (10) days. There were 3,871 youth diverted from detention after arrest.

The Youth Center and Work Detail community service program is to be incorporated with detention operations. The combined staffing and operational resources are to benefit both work sites. While Work Detail Crew Leaders/JCO work the detention facility during the weekdays, Work Detail referrals are relegated to detention Out -To>Returns and youth not currently enrolled in school during the same period.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

To efficiently run the Operations departments and maximize staffing coverage, the Intake Office and Reception Release Departments merged into one and is now called the Clerk's Office. The Clerk Office staff was cross-trained to effectively process youth properly and timely into the facility.

A collaboration with students from the University of Cincinnati to assess, monitor and follow-up with youth that are diverted from being admitted to the Youth Center was initiated. Students make phone calls and home visits to assure youth attend their scheduled court hearing(s) in an effort to reduce the number of capiases/warrants issued.

The Facility Control Department is responsible for the overall facility movement between floors and access to and from secure sections of the facility. The department continues to utilize Work Detail staff for first floor hall operation.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Housing Department incurred further reduction in the number of open units in 2009; from six to four units, and reduced the number of available secure beds from 140 to 80 beds. The Youth Center lost approximately 30 JCO staff, mostly housing staff, due to attrition.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Medical Screenings	3,317
Full Physical Examinations	1,529
Sick Call Examinations by nurse practitioner or physician	2,124

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Youth Center had the same number of volunteers providing programs and services, the reduction of volunteer hours were due to the closing of housing units and reduction of youth.

Volunteer hours	1,481
Total # of Volunteers	384
Total # of programs/organizations	86
Total # of training hours	10,825.30

**HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
HILLCREST TRAINING SCHOOL**



HILLCREST TRAINING SCHOOL

Hillcrest Training School is located at 246 Bonham Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215. The agency primarily serves children between the ages of twelve and eighteen who have a history of court involvement. Hillcrest operates 82 residential treatment beds and an aftercare program for delinquent boys. In addition, the school operates 12 assessment beds for adjudicated boys. Hillcrest has dual accreditation by the American Correctional Association by meeting both the "Training School" and "Aftercare Services" Standards. Hillcrest maintains National Commission on Correctional Health Care Services, and American Association of Sociology accreditation. The agency is also licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health, and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. Finally, Ohio Department of Youth Services certified the agency's sex offender program to provide assessment, treatment, and transition services.

2009 Achievements

- Four residential living unit closed due to County budget crisis and hiring freeze.
- Implemented a Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment intervention with Children's Hospital's Mayerson Center.
- Nominated finalist for the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrator's Barbara Allen-Hagen Award. This award recognizes excellence in operational standards.
- Installed APEX Learning Digital Curriculum Solution for on-line credit recovery program. This internet-based application satisfies State educational standards. It is also the same credit recovery system used by Cincinnati Public Schools.
- Received a \$470,000.00 Targeted Reclaim Subsidy Grant.
- Received Ohio Department of Youth Services certification for assessment, treatment, and transition services for juvenile sexual offenders
- Implemented transitional program that focuses on employment training. Initiative possible through a Workforce Investment Act grant and Lighthouse Youth Services.
- Received permanent certification by the Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Services.
- Continued to define Hillcrest Training School's relationship with the Princeton School District.

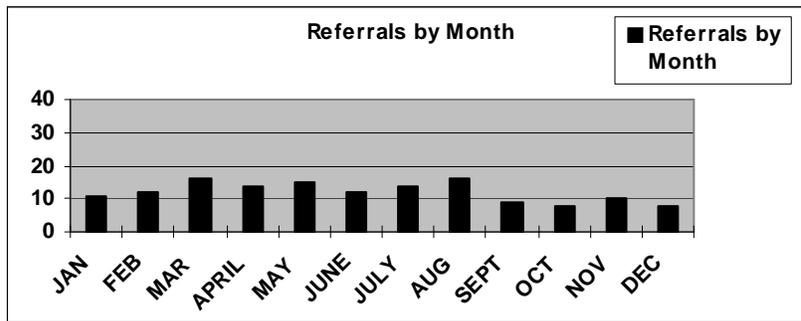
INTAKE STATISTICAL REPORT

RESIDENTIAL CARE		ASSESSMENT PROGRAM	
Referrals	145	Total Served	194
Admissions	128		
Terminations	146		
Number of Youth Served	218		
Average Length of Stay (Days)			
Disruptive Behavior Track	190		
Substance Abuse Track	220		
Sex Offender Track	646		
Days of Care Provided	27,890		

TOTAL REFERRALS

Referrals by Month

JAN	11
FEB	12
MAR	16
APR	14
MAY	15
JUN	12
JUL	14
AUG	16
SEP	9
OCT	8
NOV	10
DEC	8



TOTAL 145

RACE OF REFERRALS:

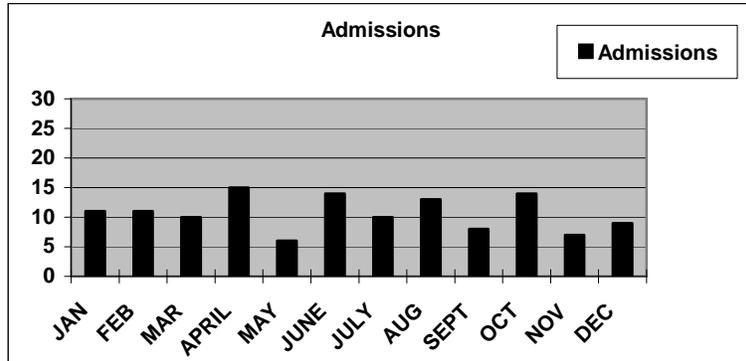
	Number	Percentage
African-American	135	93.10%
Caucasian	9	6.21%
Bi-Racial	1	.69%
TOTAL	145	100%

AVERAGE AGE	AVERAGE # OF PRIORS	AVERAGE # OF DAYS ON REFERRAL
15.7 Years Old	8 Priors	25 Days

TOTAL ADMISSIONS

Admissions by Month

JAN	11
FEB	11
MAR	10
APR	15
MAY	6
JUNE	14
JULY	10
AUG	13
SEPT	8
OCT	14
NOV	7
DEC	9
TOTAL	128



RACE OF ADMISSIONS:

	Number	Percentage
African-American	121	94.53%
Caucasian	7	5.47%
TOTAL	128	100%

DEGREE OF COMMITTING OFFENSE:

	Number	Percentage
Violation of Court Order		
Sex Offense Specific	1	.78%
Substance Abuse	7	5.47%
Disruptive Behavior	1	.78%
Misdemeanor		
Sex Offense Specific	2	1.56%
Substance Abuse	8	6.25%
Disruptive Behavior	1	.78%
Felony		
Sex Offense Specific	9	7.03%
Substance Abuse	69	53.91%
Disruptive Behavior	30	23.44%
TOTAL	128	100%

SUSPENDED COMMITMENTS TO DYS:

	Number	Percentage
Admits With SC/DYS		
Sex Offense Specific	11	8.59%
Substance Abuse	81	63.28%
Disruptive Behavior	32	25.00%
Admits Without SC/DYS		
Sex Offense Specific	1	.78%
Substance Abuse	3	2.34%
Disruptive Behavior	0	0.00%
TOTAL	128	100%

DAYS OF RESIDENTIAL CARE PROVIDED IN 2009:

Quarter	Residential Days of Care
1 st	7,247
2 nd	7,282
3 rd	6,814
4 th	6,547
TOTAL	27,890

RESIDENTIAL TERMINATIONS:

	Number	Percentage
Aftercare	113	77.40%
PC to DYS	8	5.48%
Unsuccessful	5	3.42%
Other Placement Made	15	10.27%
Bound Over	5	3.42%
TOTAL	146	100%

2008 AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY:

	Disruptive Behavior	Substance Abuse	Sex Offense Specific
Total # of Children Served	52	137	29
Total Residential Days Care	5,955	15,350	6,585
Terminations	54	120	11
Average Length of Stay in Days	190	220	646

AFTERCARE CASELOAD:

	Releases	PC/DYS
2005	124	38
2006	136	24
2007	147	28
2008	143	21
2009	138	24

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UTILIZATION STATISTICS

PSYCHOLOGY:

The Psychology Department conducts psychological intake assessments for each youth admitted. These assessments identify mental health, substance abuse, and psycho-educational issues. A formal diagnosis and treatment recommendation(s) are offered for each youth. The department provides staff training and consultation, individual and group counseling, and crisis intervention. Services include suicide risk assessment and assignment of suicide precautions, management of youth prescribed psychotropic medications and liaison with area mental healthcare providers. The Psychology Department takes a leadership role in coordinating and facilitating intensive cognitive-behavioral treatment groups for substance abuse and anger management problems. The department staffing includes psychology assistants and two licensed psychologists who supervise all psychological services as specified by the Ohio State Board of Psychology.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	TOTAL
Psychological Evaluations	152
Intake Evaluations	123
Extended Diagnostic Evaluations	29
Individual Counseling	473
Crisis Intervention Services	294
Group Counseling Sessions	240

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM:

All youth are assessed for substance abuse by the Intake Social Worker, Psychology Department, Residential Social Worker, and Health Care Services. Identified youth are referred to the following programming: (1.) an intensive six month cognitive/behavioral program designed to address the dual issues of alcohol and other drug use and criminal conduct, (2.) an advanced substance abuse program including restricted and graduated home visits and increased use of toxicology screening, (3.) individual counseling with certified chemical dependency counselor. Aftercare services include routine curfew checks by legal authorities, Electronic Monitoring, Social Worker contacts, and Relapse Prevention treatment groups.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	TOTAL
Cognitive Behavioral Groups	354
Individual Substance Abuse Counseling	10
Toxicology Screening	1,825
Residential	1,363
Aftercare	462
Relapse Prevention (Aftercare) Groups	99

SEX OFFENSE-SPECIFIC PROGRAM:

The primary goals of the sex offense-specific program are: community safety, victim restoration, and relapse prevention. The program offers an educational, parent support, and group therapy component. As a portion of the overall assessment process, the program relies on the use of polygraph examinations to verify information, deter further sexually abusive behaviors, and prevent program and treatment drift. Parental participation is mandatory. The average length of stay for sex offenders is 14 months with an additional period of community supervision and treatment. A family support group is also provided and each parent is required to attend at least one family support session. Aftercare services include routine curfew checks by the legal authorities, Electronic Monitoring, Social Worker contacts, and weekly Relapse Prevention treatment groups. The staff consists of a Treatment Team Administrator, a Psychology Assistant, two contractual sex offender treatment therapists, and a Licensed Psychologist.

SEX OFFENSE SPECIFIC SERVICES	TOTAL
Residential Sex Offender Groups	287
Parent Support Groups	19
Relapse Prevention (Aftercare) Groups	50
Polygraphs	35

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR DISORDERS:

This program focuses on helping youth identify and change antisocial attitudes, values, and beliefs. Youth with a pattern of violating the law and the rights of others, but who have no sexual offenses and no identified substance abuse problems are placed in this program. Treatment interventions include problem-solving, social skills, and anger management groups. Aftercare services include routine curfew checks by the legal authorities, Social Worker contacts, and Electronic Monitoring.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR SERVICES	TOTAL
Anger Management Groups	75
Problem Solving / Social Skills Groups	52
Relapse Prevention (Aftercare) Groups	74

HEALTH SERVICES

Services include health assessments, daily sick call, and management of special needs cases, medication distribution, immunizations, routine dental care and training. In-service training is provided for both staff and residents focusing on health and wellness. The Health Service Department oversees the exposure control plan and assists in the monitoring of certain health safety requirements throughout the facility. Hillcrest provides on site medical and dental services. Additional health services are available through various community clinics and hospitals, as needed. The staff consists of LPNs, an RN supervisor, a contractual physician, a dentist, and a contractual psychiatrist.

HEALTH SERVICES	TOTAL
Physical Examinations, Residential	128
Psychiatric Evaluations	41
Psychiatric Follow-Up Visits	251
Sick Call	
Pediatrician Visit	223
Nurse Visits	4,555
Dental Cleaning and Restoration	152

SUPPORT SERVICES

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department, under the Administrative Services Division is responsible for the preparation, expense and monitoring activity of the Annual County Operating budget and various state grants. Another major responsibility is the maintenance of employee sick and vacation records and production of the bi-weekly payroll. In addition, court ordered restitution is disbursed to the victim and child support for youth in placement is monitored.

2009 General Fund	Revenue	Expense
General Fund Subsidy	\$11,580,203.41	
Judges' Office	\$4,745,727.60	\$10,955,853.53
Youth Center	\$1,547,178.27	\$8,153,857.11
Hillcrest *	\$6,209,406.26	\$4,972,804.90
TOTAL	\$24,082,515.54	\$24,082,515.54
Grants		
Reclaim Ohio / Youth Services	\$4,009,189.72	\$4,009,189.72
Hillcrest School	\$2,734,779.66	\$2,734,779.66
Pretrial Diversion	\$118,340.72	\$118,340.72
Legal Research	\$52,400.85	\$52,400.85
JAIBG	\$22,457.63	\$22,457.63
TOTAL	\$6,937,168.58	\$6,937,168.58
GRAND TOTAL	\$31,019,684.12	\$31,019,684.12

* Hillcrest revenue includes 2008 revenues collected in 2009.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

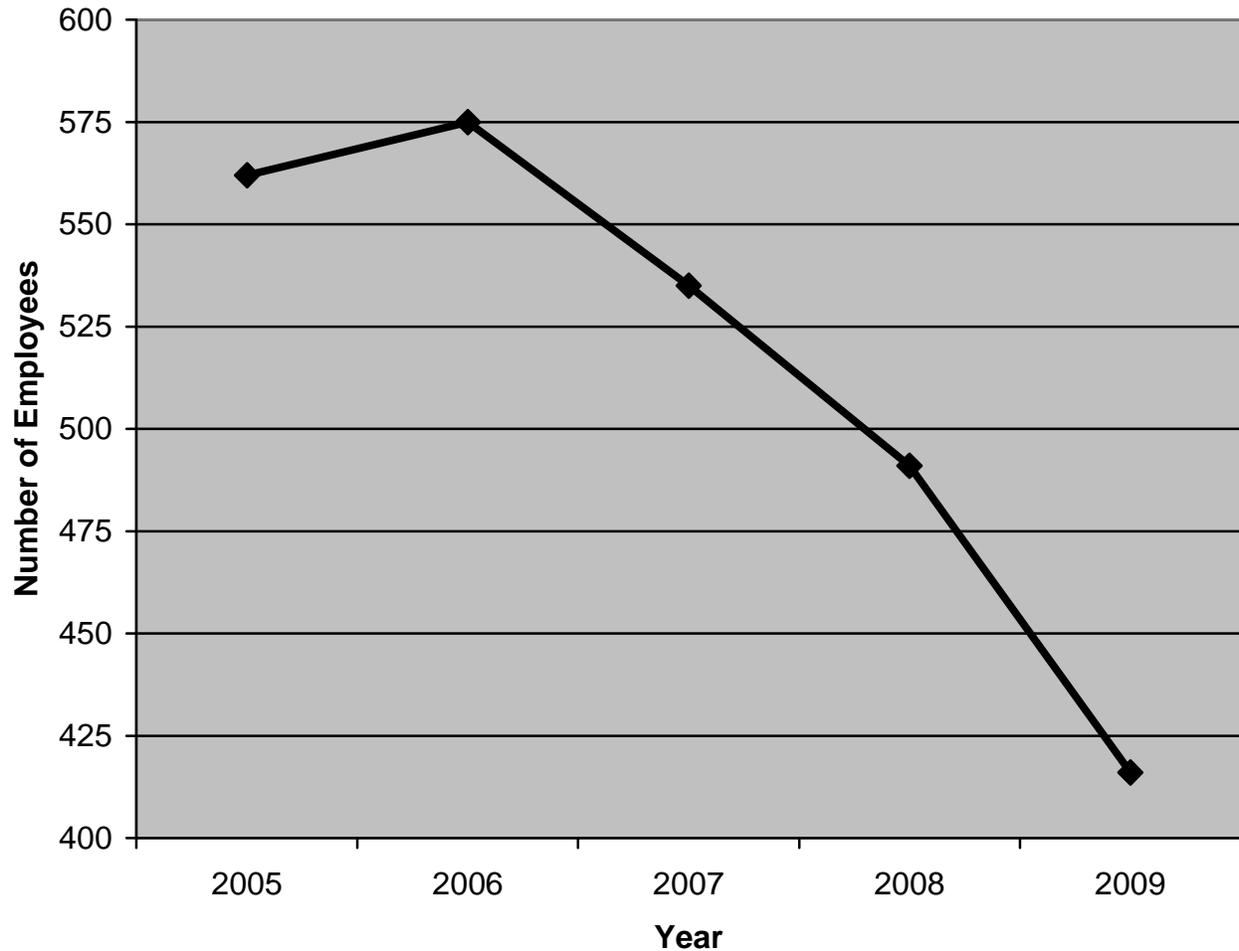
The Human Resources Department provides personnel administration and training services to support a competent and professional workforce. Personnel functions include: wage, salary, and benefits administration; maintenance of personnel records; management of the performance review and service pin programs; employee relations and development, and compliance with applicable labor laws. Training functions include: introductory orientation; continuing education; program development; scheduling; maintenance of training records; and collaboration with community agencies to maximize training resources.

The Court's staff continues to advance the Court's mission, and their dedication is especially evident and commended in the current environment of diminishing resources when everyone is asked to do more with less.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Due to continuing budget pressures, Court staffing levels continued to fall as a result of attrition and the continuation of the targeted hiring freeze initiated in 2008. At years end, Court staff numbered 416, which represented a decrease of 75 positions from 2008. This continues the steep downward trend in staffing levels from a high of 594 positions in 2004. Recruitment, applications processed (64), interviews conducted (11), and hires (6) have each declined by over 90% from 2007.

Employees at the Hamilton County Juvenile Court



TRAINING DEPARTMENT

In 2009, Court employees received over 24,000 hours of training, a 20% decrease from 2008. This is reflective of a smaller work force, reduction in elective training requirements, and coverage issues related to lower staffing levels. Core training mandates related to safety, security, and accreditation standards remain unchanged. Where possible, the training department accesses grant funding to support training programs.

Through the joint efforts of training staff from 800 Broadway, Hillcrest School, and the Youth Center, the Court again sponsored its annual multidisciplinary children's mental health training program. The 2009 program, *Juvenile Justice and Attention Deficit /Hyperactivity Disorder: Tools for Success*, featured Dr. Marlene Snyder, a nationally recognized expert on the topic. This program was supported almost entirely by community resources and federal grant funding, allowing more than 250 staff from the Court and other child-serving agencies to attend without charge. Continuing educational credit was available for counselors, social workers, and attorneys to maintain licensure.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services Department is comprised of ten full-time employees and two contract positions. Staff are responsible for the design, development, implementation and support maintenance of the Court's computer hardware and software systems at all four court locations. In 2009 the Information Services Department upgraded the servers at 800 Broadway and completed the upgrades for the single camera Courtrooms audiovisual recording systems.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The basic function of the Operations Department is to determine the equipment and supply requirements for the Juvenile Court, maintain an inventory of supplies commensurate with the requirements and place all necessary vendor orders. It is the department's responsibility to maintain control of Court equipment by proper record keeping, conducting an annual inventory and monitoring maintenance contracts. The Operations Department handles the majority of the purchasing for the Juvenile Court, therefore, the department is also responsible for authenticating all invoices for payment.

The Operations Department also maintains a Print Shop for the purpose of developing, duplicating and reproducing all the forms that the Juvenile Court utilizes. The Operations Department is staffed with 2 full-time members. Along with the Operations Director, there is a Supply Clerk/Printer.



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